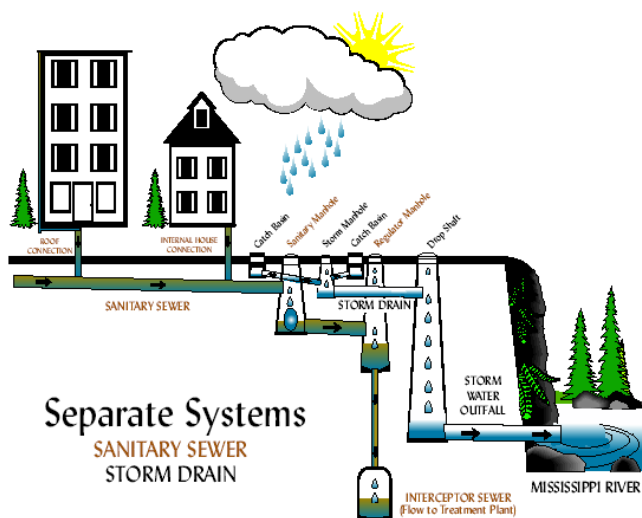

Rainleader & Area Drain Disconnection Program Fact Sheet

The City of Minneapolis is pursuing a campaign of separating its sanitary sewer system from its stormwater drainage system to reduce the number of combined sewer overflows (CSOs). CSOs occur when an excessive volume of rainfall enters the sanitary sewer system and exceeds its capacity. This creates an overflow to the stormwater drains, leading to a discharge of rainwater mixed with untreated sewage into the Mississippi River. The City's goal is to bring CSO discharge points in compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act and State water-quality standards, and to minimize health and environmental impacts from wet-weather events.

The April 2002 report, *City of Minneapolis Combined Sewer Separation Evaluation* reviewed the impact of rain gutters and roof drains that are connected to the sanitary sewer system on potential backups and overflows when excessive rain inundates the system. Rain gutters and roof drains (rainleaders) that are connected to the sanitary sewer are one of the major contributors to CSOs events. Since 1961, City Ordinance and the Uniform Plumbing Code have prohibited such connections. While the majority of homes and businesses constructed prior to 1961 in Minneapolis do not have rainleaders connected to the sewer system, concentrations of businesses and single and multi-dwelling residences in parts of Minneapolis still have this older system of drainage.

The City is reviewing on how best to address this issue. The goal of the program, once established, is to address the rainleader and other clear water connections and will provide for:

- A system for notifying property owners that they have a rainleader or clear water connection to the sanitary sewer.
- Flexibility for property owners to determine how they will address a rainleader or other clear water connections to the sanitary sewer.
- Property owner notification to the City that all rainleader and clear water connections to the sanitary sewer have been addressed.
- Work performed to address rainleader and clear water connections is permanent in nature to prevent subsequent reconnection of rainwater pipes, leaders, or other clear water connections from buildings, grounds, or premises to any other public combined or sanitary sewer would be permitted.
- That any solution does not contribute to or cause to other problems such as localized flooding.
- How to address rainleader and clear water connections on vacant properties and unresponsive owners.



In 1995, separate storm drain and sanitary sewer systems were achieved. In 1998, a program to resolve street flooding was enacted. Storm drains were constructed, preventing stormwater from entering the interceptor sewers and waste water from entering the river in nearly all cases. In heavy, fast rains, some combined sewer overflows (CSOs) will enter the river. Next steps include addressing rooftop and other clear water connections to the sanitary sewer, capital system improvements and an environmental education campaign to help eliminate CSOs.